course of drought area studies and studies related to National Perspective Plan (NPP), water deficit basins have been identified.

The National Water Policy, 2002 emphasizes the need to make water available to water short areas. It states "water should be made available to water short areas by transfer from other areas including transfers from one river basin to another, based on a national perspective, after taking into account the requirements of the areas/basins"

Fall in ground water level

†2960. SHRI NAND KISHORE YADAV: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been constant fall in ground water level in various States during the last two decades and as a result of which a grave situation has arisen regarding the resources providing safe water for drinking, irrigation and cultivation;

(b) whether the likelihood of drought in some States due to constant falling of water level has arisen;

(c) whether Government have formulated a long term plan till now to tackle the situation; and

(d) whether Government have carried out any research work regarding ground water resources?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAY PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): (a) and (b) A long-term analysis fo ground water levels by the Central Ground Water Board (CGWB), under the Ministry of Water Resources, during the last two decades (1985-2004) shows significant decline (more than 20 cm/ year) in ground water levels in parts of 274 districts in the States of Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Haryana, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Orissa, Punjab, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal. This has affected adversely the availability of water for drinking, irrigation and cultivation purposes.

(c) 'Water' being a State subject, it is primarily the responsibility of the State Governments to formulate plans for augmenting water

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

resources. The CGWB has prepared a report entitled "Master Plan for Artificial Recharge to Ground Water", which envisages recharge of 36453 Million Cubic Meter volume of surplus monsoon runoff, through construction fo 39.25 lakhs artificial recharge and roof top rain water harvesting structures. The CGWB has implemented a Central Sector Scheme for Study of Recharge to Ground Water in the country during the Eighth and Ninth Five Year Plans.

The following steps have also been taken by the Union Government in this regard:—

(i) Circulation of a Model Bill in the year 1970 which was re-circulated in 1992 and again in 1996 to all the States/Union Territories to enable them to enact suitable legislation for regulation and control of ground water development. A revised Model Bill, 2005 to regulate and control the development and management of ground water has been again circulated to all the States/Union Territories.

(ii) Circulation of Manual/Guidelines on Artificial Recharge of Ground Water to the States/Union Territories to enable them to formulate area specific artificial recharge schemes to check the declining trend of ground water levels.

(iii) Central Ministries/Departments of Railways, Defence, Posts, telecommunications, Central Public Works Department and National Highways Authority of India have been requested to provide roof top rain water harvesting structures in he buildings under their control.

(iv) States/UTs have been requested to provide water harvesting structures in buildings under their administrative control.

(v) All the States/UnionTerritories have been requested for advising the local bodies in their respective States/Union Territories to allow rebate in property tax to persons, who adopt roof top rainwater harvesting in their premises.

(vi) CGWB has provided technical guidance on rain water harvesting to around 2000 agencies, including State Government agencies, educational institutions, private entrepreneurs and individuals.

(vii) The Central Ground Water Authority (CGWA) constituted under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 has notified 11 critical areas on consideration of over exploitation of ground water resources and 32 over-exploited areas for registration of ground water structures.

(viii) Launching of a website on Roof Top Rain Water Harvesting (www.cgwb.net) to make aware and educate the public about various techniques of harvesting rainwater and store it for future use.

(ix) Organisation of mass awareness programmes and training courses on rainwater harvesting and artificial recharge of ground water.

(x) Rain Water Harvesting campaign has been launched keeping in view the various target groups like youth and children, women, farmers and villagers, policy and opinion makers. Publicity through print media, telecasting of spots on the television, broadcasting messages on radio, holding of seminars, workshops, conferences etc., have been undertaken for the purpose.

(xi) The Ministry of Urban Development and Poverty Alleviation, Government of India have amended Building Bye-laws, 1983, making provision for water harvesting through storing of water run-off including rain water in all new buildings on plots of 100 sqare meters and above in Delhi mandatory. Similarly, State Governments of Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Haryana, Rajasthan and Kerala have made roof top rain water harvesting mandatory in specified cases.

(xii) For conservation of ground water based drinking water sources, 5% of total funds under he Centrally Sponsored Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme (ARWSP) being released to the States is earmarked for source sustainability which *inter-alia* includes rain water harvesting, water conservation and artificial recharge.

(d) CGWB carries our research on different aspects of ground water covering its quantity as well as quality. One of the important research activities being carried out is regular monitoring of ground water levels and analysis of data thus collected. Based on historical ground water level data, ground water resources of the country are evaluated.

Major and medium irrigation projects in Assam

2961. SHRI URKHAO GWRA BRAHMA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the major and medium ongoing irrigation projects in Assam proposed for completion in Tenth Plan strategy;

(b) the details of minor irrigation projects of State in respect of which the plan outlay has been approved for the Tenth Plan; and

(c) what is the status of Champa and Dhansiri Irrigation Projects of Bodoland area of Assam?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAY PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): (a) Details of the major and medium ongoing irrigation projects in Assam proposed for completion in Tenth Plan are given in the Statement enclosed. (*See* below)

(b) Irrigation being a State subject, the minor irrigation schemes are planned, implemented and funded by the State Governments as per their resources and priorities.

The approved outlay for minor irrigation sector in Assam for Tenth Plan is Rs. 305.09 crore.

(c) Champamati Irrigation Project was started during Sixth Plan. Latest estimated cost of the project is Rs. 128.68 crore. Total expenditurc incurred on this project upto March, 2004 is Rs. 61.30 crore. The project is scheduled for completion after Tenth Plan.

Dhansiri Irrigation Project was started during Fifth Plan. Latest estimated cost of the project is Rs. 355.02 crore. Total expenditure incurred on this project upto March, 2004 is Rs. 179.42 crore. The project is scheduled for completion after Tenth Plan.